# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE DIVISION

SALISA LUSTER HARRISON,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 3:18-cv-388-DJH

\*\*\*JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

RICK WOOLRIDGE, BRIAN TUCKER, ROBERT C. WHITE, MICHAEL SULLIVAN, STEVE CONRAD, DEE ALLEN, CAREY KLAIN, DAVID RAY, DAVID ALLEN, CAROLYN NUNN, and JOHN DOES 1–10, all individually,

Defendants.

Serve: Louisville Metro Police Department

633 West Jefferson Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202

# **COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES, Plaintiff, SALISA LUSTER HARRISON, by and through her attorneys, and for her cause of action, states as follows:

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Louisville Metropolitan Police Department (hereafter "LMPD") Law Enforcement Code of Ethics reflects the purported LMPD belief that serving the community, protecting the innocent against deception, and respecting the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice are among the fundamental duties LMPD police officers are required to fulfill. The LMPD pledges that it shall perform its duties with an unwavering commitment to integrity, professionalism and dependability. The LMPD states that it will be accountable to those it serves for its decisions and actions.

- 2. Unfortunately, the letter and spirit expressed in this law enforcement code were absolutely nowhere to be found on April 29, 2008, as SALISA LUSTER HARRISON (hereafter "SALISA")—who had been viciously beaten, strangled and sexually assaulted—was callously ignored by an LMPD officer, RICHARD WOOLRIDGE (hereafter "WOOLRIDGE"), and essentially left for dead after a brutal attack in her home. Indeed, SALISA had suffered serious physical injuries—including a traumatic brain injury—during the attack, which was carried out by a currently unknown assailant(s). Were it not for the fact that her co-worker friends persisted in the face of LMPD ambivalence and obstruction, SALISA might very well not be alive today.
- 3. The letter and spirit expressed in the code were nowhere to be found on April 30, 2008, as another LMPD officer, BRIAN TUCKER (hereafter "TUCKER") took affirmative steps to conceal the misconduct of his colleague, WOOLRIDGE, and to deprive SALISA of equal protection of the laws. TUCKER intentionally mishandled and ignored crucial physical evidence at the crime scene, paving the way for WOOLRIDGE to avoid accountability for his actions and for the decade-long deprivation of justice for SALISA.
- 4. Worse yet, after years of diligently trying to learn the facts comprising her attack, after years of begging the LMPD officials to properly investigate her sexual assault and to identify her attacker, defendants, specifically, DAVID ALLEN, told SALISA in December 2016 that LMPD would re-test her remaining rape kit evidence. For a fleeting moment, SALISA believed that the justice she fought so hard for was forthcoming.
- 5. However, this was just another cruel misrepresentation in a series of malicious institutional falsehoods from LMPD officials. To wit, in December 2016 correspondence to SALISA, DAVID ALLEN lied to her outright, telling her the re-test was performed but yielded inconclusive results yet again. This official communication from DAVID ALLEN, a high-ranking

LMPD official, to SALISA, a sexual assault victim, was utterly, knowingly false. In fact, DAVID ALLEN and the other defendants affirmatively prevented the DNA comparison testing of SALISA's rape kit in 2016 in the hope that it would never be tested, and that SALISA's attacker(s) would never be identified, charged or criminally prosecuted.

- 6. Thus, the letter and spirit expressed in the code above have been decidedly absent for over a decade as defendants and other LMPD officials lied, concealed and misrepresented facts to SALISA and her mother, Cheryl Ellis (hereafter "Ms. Ellis"), in an effort to frustrate their tireless quest for justice for SALISA. Defendants did this in order to conceal the discriminatory actions of WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants and, ultimately, to deny SALISA court access and to deprive her of equal protection of the laws.
- 7. The fraudulent and callous misconduct that began with WOOLRIDGE's intentional investigation failures marked the beginning of a more than decade-long pattern of deceit, lies, cover-ups, misrepresentations, fraud and widespread conspiracy, all of which was aimed at concealing the malicious acts of WOOLRIDGE and subsequent state actors described *infra*. The conspiracy permeated every level of WOOLRIDGE's LMPD chain of command, all the way up to the Chief of Police. It also conceivably spread to other members of the LMPD, as well as to the Kentucky State Police (hereafter "KSP").
- 8. As described below, when SALISA's calls for justice and accountability grew too loud, the defendants lied to her. This occurred on more than one occasion, spanning many years.
- 9. The nature and depth of the police misconduct committed against SALISA by the defendants in the matter was staggering and cannot be overstated. Defendants violated their own policies and guidelines, not only in the deliberate investigation failures that plagued SALISA's

case, but also in the deliberate mishandling and compromising of vital physical evidence. None of the many clear policy violations was ever addressed by the LMPD at any time.

- 10. These intentional acts and omission of which SALISA herein complains constitute fraudulent acts, which violated several LMPD policies, and have permanently deprived her of her constitutional rights, continued for over a decade up to, and including, December 2017, and beyond.
- 11. SALISA now brings this lawsuit to enforce the Constitutional rights afforded her under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. SALISA demands trial by jury.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12. This action arises under the United States Constitution, particularly under the First and Fourteenth Amendments, and under law, particularly the Civil Rights Act of 1871 and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This Honorable Court has jurisdiction by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1367. Venue is founded in this Court upon 28 U.S.C. § 1391 as the acts of which Plaintiff complains arose in this District.

### **PARTIES**

- 13. At all relevant times, SALISA was a citizen of the United States of America and was, therefore, entitled to all legal and constitutional rights afforded citizens of the United States of America. In April 2008, SALISA resided in Unit #3 of the East Chase Apartments, located at 1623 Huntington, Louisville, Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- 14. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, WOOLRIDGE, was employed by the Louisville Metro Government (hereafter "Louisville Metro") as a police officer and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment.

- 15. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, TUCKER, was employed by Louisville Metro as a police detective and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment.
- 16. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, ROBERT C. WHITE (hereafter "WHITE"), was employed by Louisville Metro as the LMPD Chief of Police, and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, WOOLRIDGE and TUCKER were within WHITE's chain of command.
- 17. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, MICHAEL SULLIVAN (hereafter "SULLIVAN"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a police sergeant and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment. In April 2008, and at all relevant times, SULLIVAN was WOOLRIDGE's supervising sergeant and within WOOLRIDGE's chain of command. In April 2016, SULLIVAN was promoted to LMPD Deputy Chief of Police.
- 18. In 2011, and at all relevant times, DEE ALLEN (hereafter "DEE ALLEN"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a police officer or member and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of her employment.
- 19. In 2011, and at all relevant times, CAREY KLAIN (hereafter "KLAIN"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a police officer or member and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of her employment.
- 20. In 2012, and at all relevant times, STEVE CONRAD (hereafter "CONRAD"), was employed by Louisville Metro as the LMPD Chief of Police and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment. In 2012, and at all relevant times, TUCKER was within CONRAD's chain of command.

- 21. In 2015, and at all relevant times, DAVID RAY (hereafter "RAY"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a police officer, was a Major in rank, and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment.
- 22. In 2015, and at all relevant times, CAROLYN NUNN (hereafter "NUNN"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a Special Victims Unit Coordinator, was a Lieutenant in rank, and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of her employment.
- 23. In 2016, and at all relevant times, DAVID ALLEN (hereafter "DAVID ALLEN"), was employed by Louisville Metro as a Special Victims Unit Coordinator, was a lieutenant in rank, and was acting under the color of state law, within the scope of his employment.
- 24. At all relevant times, each of the aforementioned named defendants was a "member" with the LMPD, as defined in LMPD policies.
- 25. At all relevant times, JOHN DOES 1–10, were each employees of Louisville Metro or the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and each acted under color of state law. Though JOHN DOES 1–10 are currently unidentified by SALISA, she alleges herein that each of them engaged in various tortious and unconstitutional acts and omissions which caused her physical and emotional pain and injuries. Upon information and belief, SALISA avers that the true identities of JOHN DOES 1–10, will be ascertained during court-ordered discovery in the matter.
- 26. Upon information and belief, Louisville Metro Government, d/b/a LMPD, is the employer of the individual defendants, is a governmental entity subject to the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1983 and which was and is responsible for assuring that the actions, policies and procedures guiding their officers are constitutional and do not deprive citizens of fundamental guaranteed rights.

- 27. Louisville Metro is a Commonwealth of Kentucky municipal corporation and is and/or was the employer of defendants, WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER, WHITE, SULLIVAN, CONRAD, DEE ALLEN, KLAIN, RAY, DAVID ALLEN, NUNN and JOHN DOES 1–10. Louisville Metro is therefore responsible for the acts of these defendants while they were employed by Louisville Metro and while acting in the scope of their employment.
- 28. At all times relevant to this complaint, Louisville Metro was a city with home rule as enabled, defined and empowered under KRS 83.410-83.660, as well as KRS Chapter 83A, 91 and 91A. Louisville Metro is responsible for the policies, practices and customs of the LMPD.

### **LMPD Standard Operating Procedures**

- 29. At all relevant times, all LMPD members were required to be apprised of the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, and were required, at all times, to follow the United States Constitution, the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and also to comply with LMPD Standard Operating Procedures ("SOPs"). LMPD SOPs are written orders which apply to all LMPD members such as defendants. Each member of the LMPD, including defendants, are required to be familiar with the LMPD SOP Manual and must adhere to its directives.
- 30. SOP 5.1.2 regards Obedience to Rules and Regulations, and mandates, in part, that members shall obey all rules, orders, polices, and procedures of the department. Members who violate any of the above may be dismissed or be subject to other punishment, as directed for such a violation.
- 31. Moreover, per SOP 5.1.6, the reporting of violations of LMPD policy is mandatory. SOP 5.1.6 states that LMPD "[m]embers knowing, or suspecting, other members of violating any laws, orders, or polices shall report the infraction immediately to their supervisor."

32. SOP 5.1 pertains to rules and conduct. SOP 5.1.1 defines "untruthfulness," and reads in pertinent part:

Untruthfulness is defined as: Intentionally make a false, misleading, or untrue oral or written statement, report, record, and/or communication (including electronic communication); Intentionally failing to accurately report all facts pertaining to an investigation; Intentionally misrepresenting any matter by: Knowingly submitting any false official statement(s) before, to, or during...Any official investigation of the department, including an investigation initiated by a commanding officer.

- 33. SOP 5.1.5 elaborates upon the LMPD's truthfulness requirement, stating that "Members are required to be honest and truthful in all matters related to their scope of employment and operations of the department. Untruthfulness is prohibited and may warrant termination. Untruthfulness is conduct that is intentional, malicious, and/or deceptive and may take one of several forms, such as an intentionally deceptive action in a formal setting or during an investigation or the submission of deceptive documents.
- 34. LMPD officers pledge to be constantly mindful of the welfare of others, and to be honest in thought and deed both in their personal and professional lives. They pledge to be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of their department.

#### The April 2008 Brutal Sexual Assault of Salisa Luster Harrison

35. SALISA was brutally assaulted in her own home on or about April 27, 2008. Due to her multiple severe injuries she was unable to move from her couch, and this caused her to miss work, which was uncharacteristic. SALISA's co-workers became concerned by her absence on April 29, and they began efforts to call and locate her. Unable to reach her via telephone, they decided to go to her apartment, arriving there in the early afternoon. They saw SALISA's car outside her apartment and began to knock repeatedly at her door and windows, with no response. They continued trying to telephone SALISA but there was no answer.

### The First Call Made to LMPD Seeking Help for SALISA

- 36. Gravely concerned for her well-being and safety, SALISA's co-workers then called the LMPD, and explained their belief that she was inside the apartment, and possibly seriously injured. They knew something was not right, and they requested an emergency citizen welfare check. The co-workers' call was received by the CITY's dispatch department at approximately 11:12 am on April 29, 2008.
- 37. On April 29 at approximately 11:27 am, WOOLRIDGE arrived at SALISA's apartment in response to the co-workers' call. The co-workers explained the situation to WOOLRIDGE and conveyed to him their adamant belief that something was not right and that they feared that SALISA was inside her home and seriously injured. They told WOOLRIDGE that SALISA's absence from work was uncharacteristic, and that her car was parked in front, which was consistent with their fears. WOOLRIDGE entered SALISA's apartment, shutting the door behind him, and preventing SALISA's co-workers from entering to see her.
- 38. Within five (5) minutes, WOOLRIDGE exited SALISA's apartment and told her co-workers that he had spoken with SALISA. He told them SALISA was upset and had been crying, due to a fight with her boyfriend. WOOLRIDGE told the co-workers that he also spoke with the alleged "boyfriend" inside SALISA's apartment who confirmed everything. WOOLRIDGE advised that "everything is fine," but again prevented the co-workers from entering SALISA's apartment to check on their friend. WOOLRIDGE then got behind the wheel of his LMPD squad car and drove away.

# <u>The LMPD Closes the First Criminal Case in April 2009 Due to</u> <u>Misconduct and Material Misrepresentations by LMPD</u>

39. At approximately 11:36 am on April 29, WOOLRIDGE officially closed the "Event" that was opened by the 11:12 am "check welfare request" related to SALISA. Thus, the

case was opened for a total of twenty-four (24) minutes, and WOOLRIDGE spent less than a total of ten (10) minutes at SALISA's apartment before leaving the scene.

- 40. On April 29, 2008, and at all relevant times, WOOLRIDGE was aware of his duties as a LMPD police officer, specifically adherence to the following SOPs:
  - SOP 3.5 (incident reports);
  - SOP 3.5.3 (reporting requirements);
  - SOP 11.2.2 (evidence procedures);
  - SOP 8.50 (sexual assault investigations);
  - SOP 8.50.6 (evidence collection in sexual assault investigations);
  - SOP 8.35.1 (investigation files);
  - SOP 8.35.2 (responsibilities of first responding officer);
  - SOP 8.36.4 (aiding the injured);
  - SOP 8.36.5 (protecting the crime scene);
  - SOP 8.36.6 (controlling persons at crime scenes);
  - SOP 8.25.3 (police interviews); and
  - SOP 8.50.4 (responding officer duties in sexual assault investigations).
- 41. On April 29, 2008, despite full knowledge of his duties as described in the SOPs and awareness of proper police protocol, WOOLRIDGE engaged in willful conduct intended to deprive SALISA of equal protection of the laws and deny SALISA her constitutional right of access to the courts. To wit, WOOLRIDGE: 1) intentionally failed to create a case file; 2) intentionally failed to interview or otherwise take an official statement from the alleged "boyfriend" he encountered inside SALISA's apartment; 3) intentionally failed to call additional

LMPD officers or detectives to investigate, or assist in investigating, the matter; 4) intentionally failed to call for medical assistance or medical treatment for SALISA, despite her visible serious injuries; 5) intentionally failed to obtain witness information from SALISA's concerned coworkers; 6) and intentionally failed to interview her co-workers, or take their official statements.

- 42. WOOLRIDGE did not even bother to draft a report. Moreover, WOOLRIDGE physically prevented SALISA's co-workers from entering her apartment or otherwise providing aid and comfort to their friend, maliciously prolonging SALISA's suffering. The violence she endured left her clinging to life. Thus, rather than conduct himself in a manner consistent with the code and proper police protocol, WOOLRIDGE instead breached the most fundamental of police responsibilities: to protect and serve. Due to his racial animus, and reflecting a malicious, discriminatory intent, WOOLRIDGE left SALISA there, motionless and semi-conscious on her couch, battered and clinging to life, with the likely assailant(s) either still in her home or in the immediate vicinity.
- 43. Aside from the unconscionable nature of this conduct, WOOLRIDGE's misconduct also resulted in loss of crucial evidence that can never be recovered. WOOLRIDGE's misconduct allowed the alleged "boyfriend" he encountered in SALISA's apartment to escape without even providing his name, address or phone number. This individual was not SALISA's "boyfriend," nor a platonic friend or acquaintance. Clearly, he was one of her assailants. As of the date of this filing, the identity and whereabouts of this individual are unknown.
- 44. In 2008, and at all relevant times, WOOLRIDGE's supervising sergeant, SULLIVAN, was aware of the misconduct committed by WOOLRIDGE during his welfare check of SALISA, who had clearly suffered a physical assault. Despite this awareness, SULLIVAN did nothing to address the situation or to initiate a review of the matter. SULLIVAN's silence and

intentional supervisory failures constitute violations of SOP 5.1.2 (obedience to rules and regulations), SOP 5.1.6 (reporting violations mandatory) and SOP 8.50.9 (responsibilities of LMPD supervisors in sexual assault cases).

# The Second Call Made to LMPD Seeking Help for SALISA

- 45. Still gravely concerned about their friend, the co-workers placed a second call to LMPD at approximately 11:45 am. While they waited for another officer to arrive, the co-workers went to the building manager's office and eventually gained access to SALISA's apartment. When they entered, they found the apartment to be in extreme disarray—which was very uncharacteristic for SALISA—and it looked as though someone had violently ransacked it.
- 46. The co-workers quickly located SALISA, who was lying motionless on her couch in bloodstained clothing. She had a huge welt on her face, facial bruises, blood in her eyes and was unable to talk coherently due to her overall poor state, which included a swollen tongue. Based on their observations, the co-workers immediately understood that SALISA had been seriously physically harmed, which was precisely the horrific scenario they feared and tried unsuccessfully to convey to WOOLRIDGE a half hour earlier. They immediately rushed to her side and tried to comfort her.
- 47. Paramedics arrived before any LMPD personnel, and they quickly provided emergency medical services to SALISA who was also experiencing serious respiratory distress. It was determined that SALISA had been sexually assaulted. As the paramedics put SALISA on a stretcher, they expressed to her co-workers their shock and disbelief that a police officer would encounter an individual as obviously in need of immediate medical assistance as SALISA, and yet fail to provide any assistance or even contact medical personnel who could.

- 48. SALISA was then emergently transported to University of Louisville Hospital (hereafter "ULH") ER for treatment of her serious injuries, which included a traumatic brain injury. Shortly after her arrival, she suffered a seizure, and was provided extensive emergency treatment. Once SALISA was stabilized, she was physically examined, which included the facilitation of a rape kit, and her injuries were photographed. It was then learned that SALISA required major brain surgery and other treatment stemming from the assault.
- 49. On April 29, 2008 at approximately 11:59 am, TUCKER arrived at SALISA's apartment for the purported purpose of initiating a LMPD criminal investigation of SALISA's attack. By this time, it was established that SALISA had been violently sexually assaulted by an intruder(s) in her home. In such cases, the proper identification, preservation, collection and testing of physical evidence is vital to the successful criminal prosecution, a fact known by WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and all defendants at all relevant times.
- 50. On April 30, 2008, TUCKER initiated a LMPD criminal investigation, Case No. CSU 0416208, pertaining to the attack of SALISA, and which was the first such case opened by LMPD.
- 51. At that time, and at all relevant times, TUCKER was aware of his duties as a LMPD police officer, specifically, adherence to the following SOPs:
  - SOP 3.5 (incident reports);
  - SOP 3.5.3 (reporting requirements);
  - SOP 11.2.2 (evidence procedures);
  - SOP 8.50 (sexual assault investigations);
  - SOP 8.50.6 (evidence collection in sexual assault investigations);
  - SOP 8.35.1 (investigation files);

- SOP 8.35.2 (responsibilities of first responding officer);
- SOP 8.36.5 (protecting the crime scene); and
- SOP 8.25.3 (police interviews).
- 52. On April 29, 2008, despite full knowledge of his duties as described in the SOPs and awareness of proper police protocol, TUCKER engaged in willful conduct intended to deprive SALISA of equal protection of the laws, and to deny SALISA her constitutional right of access to the courts. He intentionally failed to get witness information from SALISA's concerned coworkers, and intentionally failed to interview them, or take their official statements, and later falsely claimed he did.
- 53. TUCKER ignored crucial evidence in SALISA's apartment, most, if not all, of which was vital to SALISA developing both a criminal and a civil case against the assailant(s) who viciously raped, battered and assaulted her. For instance, TUCKER: 1) failed to take elimination fingerprints; 2) failed to collect, recover and process a knife found in SALISA's bathroom; 3) failed to collect DNA and fingerprints generally; 4) failed to collect, recover and process other crucial items of major evidentiary value; 5) failed to interview any contemporaneous witnesses or the apartment staff; and 6) failed to follow up on the identity of the man with whom WOOLRIDGE spoke in SALISA's apartment on April 29, *inter alia*.
- 54. On or about April 30, 2008, the day after his arrival on the scene of SALISA's attack, TUCKER drafted his incident report in LMPD Case No. 0416208, which is the first incident report generated by any LMPD member regarding SALISA's initial check welfare request call of April 29. TUCKER's report was not only unreasonably scant and omission-riddled, but it contained false information, insofar as TUCKER claimed that he had interviewed SALISA's coworkers while at ULH ER, which he most certainly did not. Stating in an official LMPD report

that he had interviewed witnesses when, in fact, he had not, was an affirmative act of fraud and deception. It is also a violation of SOP 5.1.1 (untruthfulness), SOP 5.1.5 (forms of untruthfulness) and SOP 5.1.3 (conduct unbecoming). Unfortunately, TUCKER's willful misconduct did not end there.

- 55. In violation of proper police protocol and LMPD SOPs, TUCKER then prevented the scant evidence that was collected in the matter–including SALISA's rape kit–from being fully scientifically tested for DNA comparison. Specifically, WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants, including JOHN DOES 1–10, conspired together to prevent the successful DNA testing of SALISA's rape kit, denying her court access and depriving her of equal protection of the laws. In furtherance of the conspiracy, WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants, including JOHN DOES 1–10, had SALISA's rape kit pulled from the KSP lab and relegated to the Commonwealth's rape kit backlog among thousands of other neglected kits. It was the hope and goal of WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and JOHN DOES 1–10, to put SALISA's rape kit into a practical purgatory, in order to prevent it from being fully tested for DNA comparison.
- 56. The actions of WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants, including JOHN DOES 1–10, were in violation of:
  - SOP 11.2.4 (DNA evidence);
  - SOP 11.6.4 (DNA evidence–special procedures);
  - SOP 8.50.2 (investigation of sexual assaults);
  - SOP 8.50.5 (detective responsibilities in sexual assault investigations);
  - SOP 8.50.8 (sexual assault suspect examinations); and
  - SOP 8.50.10 (disposal of sexual assault evidence), *inter alia*.

- 57. Despite the fact that WOODRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants, including JOHN DOES 1–10, knew that SALISA's rape kit was not fully tested, they nonetheless fraudulently and falsely stated to SALISA, the prosecuting attorney's office and others that it had been fully tested, and that the testing had rendered negative results. This was part of the ongoing conspiracy begun in 2008.
- 58. On or about April 13, 2009, based on the negative results fraudulently reported by WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER and other defendants, including JOHN DOES 1–10, the prosecuting attorney's office declined to prosecute SALISA's brutal assault, recommending that it be taken to the county attorney's office for misdemeanor assault charges. On that same date, the county attorney's office declined to pursue misdemeanor assault charges. Thus, in April 2009, vindication in the form of criminal prosecution was eliminated.
- 59. On April 13, 2009, TUCKER officially closed the LMPD criminal case pertaining to SALISA's April 2008 assault.

# <u>The LMPD Closes the Second Criminal Case in December 2016 Due to</u> <u>Misconduct and Material Misrepresentations by LMPD</u>

- 60. Despite the closing of SALISA's case, she and Ms. Ellis remained vigilant in their efforts to determine what happened to SALISA. Moreover, though they could not put their finger on it, they feared that something unusual had transpired or was transpiring regarding the LMPD criminal investigation.
- 61. In late 2008, SALISA and Ms. Ellis began to issue questions to WHITE and other LMPD officials about WOOLRIDGE's conduct during his April 29 investigation of the assault. They sought review of any files or documents pertaining to the assault which were created by WOOLRIDGE and any information he may have about the assault. Along with repeatedly seeking

out evidence, they also actively provided to LMPD officials with information intended to assist the criminal investigation.

- 62. Toward the end of 2008, SALISA told the LMPD, including WHITE, that she wished to file a citizen complaint against WOOLRIDGE for the willful abdication of his duties on April 29, 2008 and his failure to properly conduct a welfare check on SALISA. She was informed by LMPD officials that her complaint could not be made over the telephone, and she would therefore need to travel back to Louisville, despite having moved back to her hometown, Little Rock, Arkansas for her medical treatment. SALISA was told by LMPD officials that she had all of February 2009 to make her complaint against WOOLRIDGE. Based on this representation, and in reliance thereupon, SALISA and Ms. Ellis traveled that month to Louisville to file the citizen's complaint against WOOLRIDGE. However, once they arrived in Louisville, and reached the LMPD office, they were told that WOOLRIDGE was allowed an early retirement by WHITE in late January 2009 and, therefore, filing a citizen complaint against him would be pointless.
- 63. It is a fact that SALISA and Ms. Ellis expressed the basis of SALISA's citizen complaint against WOOLRIDGE to WHITE and others long before WOOLRIDGE's retirement. However, WHITE stalled and placated SALISA, which served to protect WOOLRIDGE until WHITE could authorize his early retirement, in violation of SOP 2.10.1 (complaints against members) and SOP 2.11 (discipline). Thus, WHITE denied SALISA the fair opportunity to file a citizen's complaint against WOOLRIDGE for his April 29, 2008 investigatory misconduct and thus conspired with other defendants to conceal facts incriminating WOOLRIDGE from SALISA and her mother for over ten (10) years.
- 64. In 2009 and 2010, they made *FOIA* requests for information and evidence related to the attack and investigation, and received incomplete responses. In August 2011, SALISA and

Ms. Ellis made more *FOIA* requests for materials related to the attack and LMPD investigation, as well as information on WOOLRIDGE's background. In response, DEE ALLEN and KLAIN attempted to fraudulently conceal responsive investigation materials requested by SALISA that were disclosable, which was a violation of SOP 3.2.1 (open record requests) and *FOIA* itself. Specifically, these defendants each told SALISA and Ms. Ellis that certain requested materials did not exist which was a false and willful material misrepresentation intended to prevent them from obtaining the materials that could help them better understand the facts of SALISA's case and the investigatory misconduct that plagued it.

and obfuscation, in April 2012, Ms. Ellis contacted CONRAD, the newly-appointed Chief of Police, and requested that the LMPD re-open its investigation of her daughter's April 2008 assault. SALISA and Ms. Ellis had many questions regarding the LMPD's investigation of the assault, and WOOLRIDGE's conduct during the prior investigation. Ms. Ellis pleaded with CONRAD to use his authority to find out what happened, warning him that "a very dangerous person is still at large." Despite Ms. Ellis' request, CONRAD did not re-open SALISA's case. SALISA and Ms. Ellis continued to make *FOIA* requests in August 2013 and February 2014, and continued to receive incomplete responses.

# <u>A News Report Regarding a Backlog of Rape Kits Unexpectedly Gives Salisa's Quest for Justice</u> Renewed Focus and Reveals Years of LMPD Ambivalence to Sexual Assault Victims

66. In 2015, statewide audit revealed that Kentucky had a backlog of over 3000 untested rape kits, an event covered by local Louisville television stations. For purposes of this action, the practical effect of this news story is that the defendants now knew that SALISA's untested rape kit would eventually be discovered among those in the backlog. Therefore, sometime in 2015, without contacting SALISA or Ms. Ellis, defendants voluntarily "re-opened"

the investigation of SALISA's April 2008 attack, despite prior refused requests. To re-open SALISA's case for this purpose is evidence of an institutional conspiracy, and it moreover confirms that defendants were untruthful in 2009 when they reported that testing was complete and inconclusive.

- 67. In order to continue the fraud and conspiracy begun in 2008, defendants needed to control SALISA's rape kit so that they could prevent it from being tested for DNA comparison indefinitely. However, they did not account for the persistence of SALISA or Ms. Ellis. When Ms. Ellis learned of the rape kit backlog through the news story, she focused her communications with LMPD on identifying the victims associated with the backlog, a topic which she previously had no reason to explore. In 2015, Ms. Ellis came into regular contact with NUNN in this regard.
- 68. In 2015, NUNN continued the fraud and conspiracy begun years earlier by falsely informing SALISA and Ms. Ellis that the rape kit had been fully tested back in 2008-09 when she knew it had not. NUNN and defendants falsely told SALISA the reason for the new testing was an advancement in technology when, in fact, the rape kits were never tested the first time.
- 69. Despite these representations to SALISA and Ms. Ellis, NUNN in 2016 referred to SALISA's rape kit as one that was "lost in the cracks" when communicating with KSP officials. This is not how she characterized the matter to SALISA. She never described SALISA's case as one that "fell through the cracks in a lot of areas" when communicating with Ms. Ellis. Thus, NUNN willfully misrepresented material facts to sexual abuse victim, SALISA, while acting as LMPD Special Victims Unit Coordinator. In 2015, NUNN also advised KSP officials and other police officers not to share information with SALISA or Ms. Ellis.
- 70. In January 2016, RAY was instructed to authorize testing of SALISA's rape kit, but refused to do so, in furtherance of the conspiracy begun in 2008. It was RAY's intention and

desire that SALISA's rape kit not be tested for DNA comparison so that her attacker(s) would not be identified, and no criminal charges could be filed.

- 71. Sometime after January 2016, without any advance notice to SALISA or Ms. Ellis, NUNN apparently retired from LMPD, and DAVID ALLEN replaced her as Special Victims Unit Coordinator. DAVID ALLEN became SALISA and Ms. Ellis' LMPD liaison for purposes of the LMPD's "re-opened" investigation of SALISA's attack.
- 72. On or about November 11, 2016, Whitney Collins, a KSP laboratory supervisor, wrote to DAVID ALLEN, explaining that in order to test SALISA's remaining rape kit evidence for DNA comparison in the "re-opened" investigation, KSP would require his written authorization because the needed testing would fully consume—and therefore destroy—the remaining evidence.
- 73. Despite his receipt of Ms. Collins' November 11, 2016 correspondence, on or about November 23, 2016, DAVID ALLEN told SALISA that he was "waiting for the letter from the state lab regarding the final pieces of evidence available for testing," which was a knowing misrepresentation of material fact. On December 7, 2016, DAVID ALLEN told SALISA that he "did receive a letter form the [KSP] lab letting us know that there is only enough evidence to do one final test." He then added, "[w]e are working on getting the approval to get that tested quickly," which was a knowing misrepresentation of material fact.
- 74. On December 28, 2016, DAVID ALLEN, on official LMPD letterhead, told SALISA that the remaining evidence was, in fact, tested during the "re-opened" investigation, and it did not provide any further information DAVID ALLEN wrote in pertinent part:

"Unfortunately, that evidence testing has not provided us with any further information. With that information, combined with the insufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution, we are closing this case again...Thank you for being patient this last year as we revisited the case."

- 75. The reporter described above continued story and determined the DNA testing that DAVID ALLEN told SALISA was performed and yielded inconclusive results actually had not been performed. DAVID ALLEN's December 28, 2016 correspondence to SALISA was a knowing misrepresentation of material fact, and constitutes a continuation of the conspiracy alleged herein.
- On or about December 8, 2017, a news reporter covering the developing rape kit backlog story personally informed SALISA and Ms. Ellis that the DNA testing DAVID ALLEN stated was performed was, in fact, not performed. This December 8, 2017 communication to SALISA and Ms. Ellis signifies the first confirmed indication of a more than decade-long conspiracy, previously unknown to SALISA and Ms. Ellis due to the clandestine improper acts of the defendants. SALISA has since obtained LMPD email from 2018 which substantiate her claims that she and her mother were affirmatively lied to by defendants for, again, a period of over ten (10) years.
- 77. That the aforesaid intentional acts and omissions constituting fraudulent concealment began with WOOLRIDGE intentionally concealing information and evidence related to SALISA's attack and, as far as SALISA is aware, have continued to this day.
- 78. That the aforesaid intentional acts and omissions constituted positive acts of fraud that were furtively planned and secretly executed by the above LMPD members, including WOOLRIDGE, TUCKER, WHITE, SULLIVAN, CONRAD, DEE ALLEN, KLAIN, RAY, DAVID ALLEN, NUNN, and JOHN DOES 1–10, in order to keep the fraud concealed. That these transgressions served to conceal material facts which were not discoverable despite the reasonable diligence of SALISA and her mother, Ms. Ellis.

79. That, to the extent that there exists an ostensible affirmative defense regarding the statute of limitations, said defense fails because, due as pled above, this fraudulent concealment served to toll the initiation of the statute of limitations period for causes of action pertaining to the investigation of SALISA's April 2008 attack is tolled to December 8, 2017.

# COUNT I ALL DEFENDANTS DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE COURTS

- 80. SALISA hereby incorporates and re-alleges Paragraphs one (1) through seventy-nine (79) as and for Paragraph eighty (80) of Count I.
- 81. The First and Fourteenth Amendments protect the rights of individuals, such as SALISA, to seek redress for claims that have a reasonable basis in law and fact. Efforts by state actors to impede an individual's access to courts or administrative agencies can provide the basis for a constitutional claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 82. Judicial access must be adequate, effective and meaningful and therefore, when police officers conceal or obscure important facts about a crime from its victims rendering hollow the right to seek redress, constitutional rights are undoubtedly abridged.
- 83. Litigants in cases alleging a denial of the constitutional right of access to the courts of this type must allege that there are specific cases that cannot now be tried (or tried with all material evidence) as a result of a defendant's conduct. The official acts claimed to have denied access may allegedly have caused the loss or inadequate settlement of a meritorious case or the loss of an opportunity to seek some particular order of relief.
- 84. Per KRS 500.050(1), the prosecution of a felony is not subject to a period of limitations and may be commenced at any time. Per KRS 500.050(2), the prosecution of an offense other than a felony must be commenced within one (1) year after it is committed. There is a one

(1) year statute of limitations for torts in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Thus, April 29, 2009 was the deadline for the criminal prosecution of any misdemeanors stemming from the attack on SALISA, as well as the deadline for the filing of any classic tort actions against the assailant(s) stemming from the attack.

- 85. Here, the LMPD fraudulently concealed the facts which would have given rise to a civil lawsuit against the assailant(s), whomever they might be, if they are ever identified. Therefore, the Commonwealth three (3) year statute of limitations for filing civil lawsuit based on battery and assault in the current action expired on April 29, 2011, at the very latest.
- 86. SALISA's injuries were very serious and they caused an impairment in her ability to positively identify her attacker(s). Therefore, SALISA depended upon and relied upon defendants to use their skills, technology and policy dictates to identify, charge and prosecute the attacker(s). Moreover, identification of the attacker(s) was essential for SALISA to seek a civil judgment against the attacker(s).
- 87. All defendants either engaged in specific conduct or assisted offending defendants in engaging in conduct and concealing conduct. The misconduct committed by defendants was unnecessary and unreasonable, and caused SALISA significant injury.
- 88. By reason of the conduct of defendants, SALISA was deprived of rights, privileges and immunities secured to her by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and laws enacted thereunder.
- 89. The acts of defendants were unnecessary, objectively unreasonable and malicious. Therefore, defendants are liable to SALISA in damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, including compensatory damages, costs, attorney's fees and punitive damages.

# COUNT II ALL DEFENDANTS

# VIOLATION OF THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE

- 90. PLAINTIFF hereby incorporates and re-alleges Paragraphs one (1) through one-eighty-nine (89) above as and for Paragraph ninety (90) of Count II.
- 91. Equal protection rights are violated when (1) a person is a member of an identifiable class; (2) that person is intentionally treated differently from others similarly situated; and (3) there is no rational basis for the difference in treatment. Discriminatory intent implies more than intent as volition or intent as awareness of consequences. It implies that the decision maker selected or reaffirmed a particular course of action at least in part because of—not merely in spite of—its adverse effects upon an identifiable group.
- 92. SALISA is a member of an identifiable group. As pled above, she is an African-American woman who has been treated differently on account of her race. She further alleges that defendants acted with discriminatory intent in refusing to investigate criminal acts against her.
- 93. An individual who alleges that a police officer intentionally treated her differently than other similarly-situated individuals and alleges that there was no rational basis for the difference in treatment, states a viable Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Claim.
- 94. The actions taken by the defendants have violated SALISA's rights as guaranteed by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in that she has been afforded less favorable terms and conditions on the basis of her race (African-American).
- 95. SALISA has been deprived of her rights of equal protection under the law–and as of the date of this filing, continues to be deprived of these rights–on account of her race, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in that she has been afforded less

favorable terms and conditions than similarly situated white victims of crime, and continues to be afforded less favorable terms and conditions.

96. The acts of defendants were unnecessary, objectively unreasonable and malicious. Therefore, defendants are liable to SALISA in damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, including compensatory damages, costs, attorney's fees and punitive damages.

# COUNT III ALL DEFENDANTS CIVIL CONSPIRACY IN VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1985

- 97. PLAINTIFF hereby incorporates and re-alleges Paragraphs one (1) through ninety-six (96) above as and for Paragraph ninety-seven (97) of Count III.
- 98. Starting on April 29, 2008 and continuing for over a decade up to, and including, December 2017, and beyond, defendants conspired among themselves and with others for the purpose of depriving, directly or indirectly, SALISA of equal protection under the law with the intent to deny her right to access the courts related to the violent assault she endured.
- 99. Defendants engaged in a conspiracy among themselves and with others based on discriminatory animus for the purpose of depriving, directly or indirectly, SALISA's right to equal protection under the law in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1985, with the object of that conspiracy being to conceal the fact that the complaints of crime made by African-American Louisville citizens are less important to the LMPD than complaints made by similarly-situated Caucasian-Americans.
- 100. Defendants conspired together to deprive SALISA of equal protection of the laws as alleged in this Complaint based on racial animosity toward SALISA as a person of African-American heritage.
- 101. Furthermore, defendants conspired among themselves and with others in order to conceal, specifically, WOOLRIDGE's police misconduct occurring on April 29,2008, which

reflected his racial hostility, and the fact that he breached his most basic police duties when he failed to aid SALISA, an African-American professional female victim of sexual assault, and wantonly left her vulnerable to even greater danger and harm.

- 102. In furtherance of that conspiracy, defendants engaged in oral, written, and electronic communications among themselves and with others regarding their agreement not to complete SALISA's rape kit testing, actions taken to prevent the testing and their efforts to conceal these unconstitutional actions, including misrepresented material facts to SALISA and Ms. Ellis, and withholding documents and information from them.
- 103. As a result of that conspiracy, for over ten (10) years, the unconstitutional acts and omissions of defendants violating SALISA's Equal Protection rights of the law has been unknown to SALISA as a result of said conspiracy.
- 104. As a result of that conspiracy, for over ten (10) years, SALISA has suffered and continues to suffer significant physical and emotional injury SALISA has suffered tremendous emotional distress and other significant forms of damages.
- 105. The acts of defendants were unnecessary, objectively unreasonable and malicious. Therefore, defendants are liable to SALISA in damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, including compensatory damages, costs, attorney's fees and punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, SALISA prays for judgment against the defendants, in an amount which will fully and fairly compensate her for damages she suffered.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, SALISA LUSTER HARRISON, by and through her attorneys, and requests judgment against defendants, and each of them:

- 1. That the defendants be required to pay SALISA LUSTER HARRISON's compensatory damages;
- 2. That the defendants be required to pay actual damages;

- 3. That the defendants be required to pay costs and attorney fees per 42 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- 4. That SALISA LUSTER HARRISON have any other such relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

## /s/ Lonita K. Baker

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JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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Benjamin Crump, Ben Cr Tallahassee, FL 32301, 8 400 W. Capitol, Suite 170	Address, and Telephone Number) Tump Law, PLLC, 122 S. Calhoun Stree B50-224-2020; Michael Laux, Laux Law D0, Little Rock, AK, 72201, 501-242-07: Lawyers, 1201 Story Ave, Lou, KY 40206; 502-2	Group, 50; Lonit	Attorneys (If Kno	own)							
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